

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3326

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

XMBASSY BRUSSELS 1041

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USEC BRUSSELS UNN

USUN NEW YORK 676

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 5090

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, OECD, UR, SW

SUBJECT: SOVIETS CANCEL VISIT BY SWEDISH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

1. THE SWEDISH PRESS REPORTED THIS WEEK THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM HAD INFORMED THE SWEDISH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GENERAL STIG SYNNERGREN, THAT A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NOV. 11, WOULD HAVE TO BE CANCELED BECAUSE THE TIMING WAS NOT SUITABLE FOR THE SOVIETS. SYNNERGREN'S HOST ON THE VISIT WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE CHIEF OF THE SOVIET GENERAL STAFF, VIKTOR KULIKOV.

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT SYNNERGREN HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE VISIT'S CANCELLATION ONLY HOURS BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE WERE DENIED BY A SWEDISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, WHO SAID SYNNERGREN HAD BEEN NOTIFIED

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OF THE CANCELLATION BY THE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE IN

STOCKHOLM APPROXIMATELY A MONTH AGO. THE MFA SPOKESMAN, NOTING THAT "THERE HAS BEEN NO IRRITATION IN OUR CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION," ADDED THAT THE REASON FOR THE CANCELLATION WAS SIMPLY "LACK OF TIME" ON THE PART OF SOVIET MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO RECEIVE SYNNERGREN. HOWEVER, GENERAL SYNNERGREN WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS EXPRESSING THE BELIEF THAT "THERE HAVE BEEN CERTAIN IRRITATIONS ON THE SOVIET SIDE," WHICH HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON, POINTING OUT THAT HE IS NOT A POLITICIAN AND COULD NOT COMMENT FURTHER.

3. SPECULATION AS TO REASONS FOR THE CANCELLATION RANGE FROM DISPLEASURE OVER PRIME MINISTER PALME'S SPEECHES IN EARLY AUGUST AT PITEA, SWEDEN AND IN YLOJARVI, FINLAND, TO THE NOBEL COMMITTEE'S INVITATION TO ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN TO ATTEND THE NOBEL CEREMONIES.

IN THE PITEA SPEECH, PALME HAD WARNED OF THE DANGERS TO THE SMWL POWERS ARISING FROM WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A "SUPERPOWER CONDOMINIUM," WHILE IN THE LESS WELL-KNOWN YLOJARVI SPEECH, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD CRITICIZED THE "ELITE PRINCIPLE OF LENINISM." SOME PRESS SOURCES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE TRUE REASON FOR THE CANCELLATION WAS NOT IDEOLOGICAL BUT RATHER REFLECTED SOVIET IRRITATION OVER THE FAILURE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE MEDIAN LINE SEPARATING THE TWO COUNTRIES' TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE BALTIC. THE LAST ROUND OF BILATERAL TALKS ON THE ISSUE ENDED IN DEADLOCK IN MOSCOW LAST APRIL.

4. COMMENT: SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE (ELIASSON) TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT AS FAR AS GOS KNOWS CANCELLATION OF SYNNERGREN VISIT HAS NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS SOME UNCERTAINTY ON THIS POINT IN MFA CIRCLES. ACCORDING TO ELIASSON, WHEN SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO MET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON AT UNGA IN SEPTEMBER, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY, AND THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED THAT THERE ARE NO OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. PALME'S SPEECHES AS WELL AS THE OTHER DEVELOPMENTS CITED IN PARA. 3 ABOVE WERE ALL KNOWN TO SOVIETS AT TIME OF GROMYKO MEETING AND THEREFORE SEEMED UNLIKELY TO BE SUFFICIENT SOURCE OF IRRITATION TO CAUSE

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CANCELLING OF SYNNERGREN VISIT. ONLY RECENT DEVELOPMENT WHICH ELIASSON COULD THINK OF WHICH IS PROBABLY IRRITATING TO SOVIETS IS SWEDISH INTENTION TO JOIN THE IEP AND HE SAID, POLISH AMBASSADOR FEW DAYS EARLIER HAD CALLED TO MFA TO EXPRESS DISPLEASURE AT PLANNED SWEDISH MOVE, SUGGESTING THAT IEP MEMBERSHIP COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO SWEDISH MEMBERSHIP IN EC.

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